

County of Milwaukee County
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: March 31, 2011

To: Supervisor Lee Holloway, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Johnny Thomas, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
Supervisor Peggy West, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Needs

From: Maria Ledger, Interim Executive Director, Department of Family Care

Re: From the Interim Director, Department of Family Care (DFC), requesting authorization to participate in and receive payment for participation in the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

I respectfully request that the Committee on Health and Human Needs schedule the attached resolution for consideration during its meeting on April 13th, 2011 and by Committee on Finance and Audit meeting being held on April 14th, 2011.

The resolution authorizes the Milwaukee County Department of Family Care to execute on behalf of Milwaukee County the 2011 agreement to participate in, and receive payment for participation in the amount of \$20,000.00, and to disburse those funds consistent with the terms of the MIG grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The grant funding is being provided through the Pathways Office of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources/Office of Independence and Employment. The grant funds are for a pilot of the Vocational Futures Planning (VFP) process. VFP is a model to provide employment-planning services to people with physical disabilities. VFP is a consumer-directed, team based comprehensive employment service that supports participants to obtain, maintain or advance in employment. VFP offers a unique way to allow individuals with disabilities to explore their options for employment.

The process is designed to address barriers to employment, which include but are not limited to:

- **Benefits Questions:** Concern with loss of benefits; no awareness of Social Security Administration work incentives programs
- **Employment Planning Services:** Lack of comprehensive, coordinated and specialized vocational services specific to people with physical disabilities, e.g. career planning, education, job development/placement, and training

- **Attitudes and Perceptions:** Negative attitudes on the part of employers, rehabilitation professionals, policy makers and the public at large; the perception that people with physical disabilities either cannot or do not want to work
- **Transportation:** Lack of adequate and reliable transportation
- **Funding:** Inadequate funding for personal assistants as well as other services and supports
- **Coordination:** Lack of coordination among the various parts of the service system, e.g. Social Security, DVR, Long-Term Support, Independent Living Services, Transportation, Housing, etc.

The VFP process is a team-based process, getting all of the appropriate people together to examine barriers and explore solutions. The process is consumer-driven and consumer-directed. The individual takes an active role, working with the employment specialist as well as service providers, advocates, mentors and others on their team. But it is also a flexible process and should be molded and shaped to meet the needs and desires of a particular individual. The specific steps the Department of Family Care will undertake to implement the pilot will include:

Pilot Process:

1. Interview Vocational and Supported Employment providers to determine the best match to provide services to members
2. Contact Care Management Units (CMUs) working with a large population of members in the Physically Disabled (PD) target group
3. Identify Family Care members who have a strong interest in community employment
4. Pathways Liaison, Mary Ridgley, will mentor provider through the VFP process
5. Monitor member's progress through the process
6. Provide quarterly progress reports to the DFC senior management and DHS/Pathways

Pilot Goals:

1. To overcome barriers to reach the employment outcome for 5 or more Family Care members and to work towards employment in their chosen career
2. To pilot a fee structure established by Pathways and DFC staff
3. Share member's outcomes/stories using the process

Adoption of the attached resolution is necessary to allow Milwaukee County Department of Family Care to participate in and receive payment for participation in the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services to pilot this program and improve the lives of members with physical disabilities.

If you have any questions about this resolution, please call me at 287-7610.



Maria Ledger, Interim Executive Director
Department of Family Care

Cc: Interim County Executive Marvin Pratt
John Ruggini
Toni Thomas-Bailey
Jennifer Collins
Steve Cady
Jodi Mapp
Jim Hodson
Eva Williams

1
2
3
4 (ITEM NO. __) From the Interim Executive Director, Department of Family Care (DFC),
5 requesting authorization to execute a contract accepting and disburse grant funds from
6 the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services for certain vocational services:
7

8 **A RESOLUTION**
9

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Family Care operates a Managed Care
11 Organization (MCO) in accordance with the Health and Community Supports Contract
12 between Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services;
13 and
14

15 WHEREAS, prior to July 1st, 2010 the Milwaukee County Department on Aging
16 (MCDA) was the department responsible for operation of the MCO providing the Family
17 Care benefit for eligible and enrolled residents of Milwaukee County; and
18

19 WHEREAS, MCDA received a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from the
20 State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for purposes of enhancing the
21 MCO's ability to provide Vocational Futures Planning services, a Family Care benefit, to
22 members with a physical disability who have expressed an interest in vocational
23 services; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the MCO, now operated by the Department of Family Care,
26 performed the activities as required by the grant and incurred commitments to disburse
27 funds in accordance with the terms of the grant and is entitled to reimbursement from
28 the granting agency; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin DHS, in addition to providing payment in
31 accordance with the MIG grant for 2010, has offered a contract for 2011 with the
32 Milwaukee County Department of Family Care to provide a MIG grant in the amount of
33 \$20,000.00 to provide a pilot demonstration of Vocational Futures Planning; and
34

35 WHEREAS, participation in this grant activity has enhanced the ability of the
36 MCO to provide Vocational Futures Planning in a more cost-effective and member-
37 centered manner and continued participation in the grant activities in 2011 will enable
38 the MCO to further develop knowledge and the practical application and benefits to
39 members of services, therefore,
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Interim Director of the Department of Family
42 Care is authorized to execute on behalf of Milwaukee County the 2011 agreement to
43 participate in, and receive payment for participation in the amount of \$20,000.00, and to
44 disburse those funds consistent with the terms of the MIG grant from the State of
45 Wisconsin Department of Health Services,
46